

GERMANS GAIN AT ONE POINT IN VERDUN REGION

Two Attacks Made on Flanks of French Line Fall, However.

ARTILLERY ACTIONS IN MEUSE DISTRICT

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, May 19.—Using large forces of men from two new divisions recently brought up to the Verdun front, the Germans made extremely violent attacks last night on the front, between the Bois d'Avocourt and Hill 304. The attacking troops were thrown back on both flanks, but succeeded in the center, on the Haucourt-Esnes road, in capturing the Bois d'Avocourt and the Bois d'Avocourt. With the failure in the Bois d'Avocourt, on the left of the line attacked, and west of Hill 304, on the right, the Germans made no further progress, but an effort to continue the progress made in the Hill 287 sector, but were checked by the French artillery. An attempt was made to retake the Bois d'Avocourt, but the French yesterday captured the Bois d'Avocourt on the northeastern slopes of Hill 304, but the attack broke down.

GERMANS THROWN BACK.

The afternoon communiqué follows: In the western part of the Argonne region the enemy endeavored to penetrate a small salient of our line at a point near St. Etienne. The attack was repulsed after the explosion of a mine. Our certain fire checked the Germans decisively, and they were thrown back into their trenches. On the left bank of the Meuse yesterday evening German forces renewed their attacks in the vicinity of the Bois d'Avocourt and Hill 304. These attacks were of extreme violence, and in them participated large numbers of men belonging to two divisions recently arrived on the field. The enemy found it impossible to capture our positions in the Bois d'Avocourt and west of Hill 304.

Nevertheless on the center the enemy was able to occupy a small salient of our line at a point near St. Etienne. Several endeavors to continue his progress at this point were definitely checked by the French fire. On the northeast slope of Hill 304 an endeavor to capture the small fort taken by us yesterday resulted in failure.

On the right bank of the Meuse and near the Meuse, the moderate activity on the part of the artillery. Enemy airplanes during the night of May 19-20 threw down three bombs on Verdun. The material damage was insignificant. A German airplane was brought down yesterday by one of our pilots near St. Etienne. The enemy's machine was brought down by our anti-aircraft fire. The enemy machine crashed to the earth at a point near Bois d'Avocourt.

All along this front and as far east as Le Mort Homme the artillery bombardment was continued to-day with great violence, but the Germans did not repeat their infantry attacks.

French Shell Many Stations.

The official communiqué issued by the War Office to-night follows: On the left bank of the Meuse the artillery fighting continues with great violence on the front Bois d'Avocourt-Hill 304 and in the region of Le Mort Homme. The enemy made an attempt at an attack in the course of the day.

On the right bank and in the Vosges there was moderate activity. The day was relatively calm on the rest of the front except in Champagne and in the Vosges, where our troops were particularly active. Aviation—On the night of May 19-20 our airplanes carried out numerous bombing operations. Numerous projectiles were thrown on the aerodromes at Mortagne and the railway stations at Metz-Sablon, Arnaville, Briouille, Stenay, Sedan and Elna, and camps at Montfaucon and Auzanville.

TEUTONS GAIN ON MEUSE

Occupy French Positions Along Haucourt-Esnes Road.

PARIS, May 19.—German troops made a further advance last night on the west bank of the Meuse, occupying French positions on both sides of the Haucourt-Esnes road, between Hill 304 and the Avocourt road. The trenches taken extend to the south of the Haucourt-Esnes road, in the course of the advance 129 prisoners, including nine officers, were taken.

First Lieut. Roelcke brought down his airplane yesterday in a combat south of Verdun.

The official statement issued by the General Headquarters to-day says: West of the Meuse we captured French positions on both sides of the road from Haucourt to Esnes, extending to the southern corner of the Canard (duck) wood. Nine officers and 129 men were taken prisoner. A new attack by the French against Hill 304 broke down, with very considerable losses to the enemy.

East of the Meuse the artillery fire on both sides increased temporarily to great violence. Airmen on both sides have been active. First Lieut. Roelcke shot down his sixth aircraft, a Fokker, at Rippent. The Lunelville station and the aerodrome and barracks at Epinal were bombed.

The Overseas News Agency issued a statement to-day quoting a correspondent at the front, saying that the French are suffering heavy losses at Verdun in spite of their intrenchments, because they have concentrated an enormous number of troops within a comparatively small space. The German artillery has wrought appalling destruction on the correspondent says, not only on the front, but also on the rear, among the reserves, who are closely crowded in territory under the effective range of the German guns.

The correspondent praises the bravery of the French troops and says that the French have built notable lines of earthworks, both before the attack on Verdun and behind it, and since the operations have been in progress.

BRITISH ARE ACTIVE.

German Positions Near Lens Bombed Effectively, Says London.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, May 19.—The following report from British headquarters in France was issued by the official press bureau to-night:

There was artillery activity between the Somme and the Ancre. In the Arras section the enemy captured a small post of ours on a crater at the north end of Vimy Ridge last night.

There was a general fighting south of Neuville-St. Vaast. Our guns today silenced the enemy's artillery in the Wailly section.

The enemy exploded a mine south of Houdmont. We hold the north end of the crater.

In the Lens sector we fired a mine.

BIRRELL LAYS BLAME FOR REBELLION ON KILCHENER

Continued from First Page.

witness testified that one of the most formidable anti-recruiting pamphlets ever written had come from the Bishop of Limerick. It told by the tens of thousands that any action had been taken in this matter he repudiated in the negative, adding:

"The Bishop's letter was too cleverly written to lead itself to proceedings." The witness said there was no doubt that there was German assistance at the bottom of the rebellion. He also asserted that the military service act had driven many who were unwilling to serve into the rebel ranks.

"The rebellion was doomed to failure from the start," said the witness later, adding that a German army and ammunition had been effected the whole population might have joined in both sides.

The witness asked Birrell: "The policy of non-intervention in Ulster was a Cabinet decision?"

"Yes," replied the witness.

"It was not a Cabinet decision in the case of the Sinn Féiners," asked the president. Birrell answered in the negative. The witness emphasized that he had immediately acted on receipt of a letter on April 16 regarding the German gun running vessel.

The commission wished to know why Mr. Birrell as Chief Secretary for Ireland had spent so much time in London.

"I had to be present at the Cabinet meetings because the case of Ireland had to be represented," answered the witness. "I was not present at the Cabinet meeting because I was not asked to be present."

The commission adjourned until Monday. It is reported that the hearing will be held in Dublin next Thursday.

ARRESTED AT TRALEE.

Prisoner May Have Been Companion of Casement and Bailey.

LONDON, May 19.—A despatch from Tralee to the Central News to-day states that an important arrest was made last night.

near the Fosse Calonne and carried off the enemy's bombardment of the enemy's positions.

During the day there was considerable artillery activity near Souchez, Loos and Hulluch. Last night we carried out a successful bombardment of the enemy's positions north of Ypres. The enemy shelled Potté to-day.

In the air there was considerable activity. A hostile machine was driven down behind the German lines.

GERMANS HOPEFUL.

Major Morant Insists Verdun Battle Is Not Lost.

BERLIN, May 19.—Major Morant, the military critic of the *Tagblatt*, denies that the French have won the battle of Verdun, and points out recent German successes in that region to prove his contention. He states that one day after the Manchester *Guardian* had declared that the French had won the battle of Verdun, the *Tagblatt* reported that the Germans captured the top of Hill 304.

"Not only have the Germans held Hill 304 against desperate French counter attacks but they have succeeded in extending their new positions. The present military situation is characterized most precisely by referring to the fact that the French, and still more the British, are conscious of their inability to advance; that they are able to act efficiently only on the defense and as long as they outnumber the Germans considerably."

TURKS CHECK RUSSIANS.

Csars Troops Lose Heavily in Bitlis Sector, It Reports.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. CONSTANTINOPLE, May 19.—Great Russian losses are reported to-night in the official Turkish statement. It is said that the Russian army was driven back at Zilarte Tepe, east of Balburt, and at Akdag.

The statement is as follows: In the Bitlis sector our artillery interfered with enemy troops engaged in constructing fortifications. In the course of the fighting a regiment strong, attacked at Lake Heur one of our detachments drawn up east of Agahut, west of Heur. The fight lasted until midnight. The enemy attack failed.

On May 16 the enemy received reinforcements of a battalion and renewed the attack, the fighting lasting until noon. Finally the enemy was forced to retreat, having suffered heavy losses and leaving behind a number of prisoners, with arms and ammunition.

Attacks by the enemy on May 16 against our positions at Zilarte Tepe, forty kilometers east of Balburt, and also against our positions near Akdag, ten kilometers south of the above named mountain, were all repulsed with enormous enemy losses.

On the afternoon of May 16 an enemy guardship fired without effect a few shells on the environs of Tobsure, on the Smyrna coast. Our artillery caused a fire on the enemy's position, which was abandoned on the coast of the island of Kesten. Only the wreck remains.

RUSSIANS TAKE MINE GALLERY.

Csars Scouts Annihilate Detachment of Austrians.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. PETROGRAD, May 19.—The following official statement was issued to-night by the Russian War Office:

On the western front at Mentendorf we successfully bombarded the enemy's artillery. Northwest of Kremenets our scouts discovered an Austrian mine gallery. The enemy fled, leaving all material. An attempt to recapture it was repulsed.

In Galicia, north of Toporovitz, our scouts annihilated an enemy detachment.

Little Fighting, Rumanian Report.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PETROGRAD, May 19.—The Russian War Office to-night issued the following statement concerning the Turkish situation: In the Caucasus no significant outposts encounters took place.

Explosion Sank the Czarine.

BERLIN, May 19.—The Overseas News Agency states that according to Amsterdam despatches the Czarine, the Empress Alexandra, arrived in Liverpool that an explosion of her boilers was the cause of her sinking.

BERNSTORFF URGES VON IGEL'S RELEASE

Ambassador Suggests Ex-Secretary Be Recalled and Punished in Germany.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—In pursuance of a policy to eliminate all possible causes of friction with the United States the German Government now proposes a solution to the vexatious Von Igel case, the only outstanding matter left in dispute.

Wolfe von Igel, ex-secretary to Capt. von Papen, the recalled German military attaché, was arrested in New York in connection with a plot to blow up the Welland Canal and his papers were seized by Federal agents and kept despite his protest by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador. Germany contended that Von Igel, as a diplomatic officer, was immune from arrest and his papers immune from seizure.

The German proposal to settle this acute controversy has now been suggested by the German Ambassador. It is for legal proceedings against Von Igel to be dropped and his papers returned on the understanding that he be recalled and punished in Germany if the evidence shows that he was guilty of an offense.

How the State Department will act on this proposal is not known. The seized papers are understood to contain much valuable information affecting high persons and are so persistent that they are directed against Germany's enemies.

Further pleas for the initiation of proceedings continue to reach here from Berlin. Apparently the German Government has instructions to pass all matter bearing on Germany's relations along this line as persistent that they are regarded as more or less inspired by the Wilhelmstrasse.

Coincident with these reports from Germany comes news that Great Britain is lightening the blockade more and more with the evident intention of cutting off all sorts of German supplies more vigorously than before.

Three German Ships Sunk. British submarines which put up for the winter in Russian Baltic ports are now active again and Consul-General Skinner reported to-day from London that three German ships had been sunk by submarines. The *Hansa*, a German steamer, which left Hamburg, was sunk on May 18. The steamer *Kela*, which left Hamburg, was sunk on May 17. The *Werra*, a German ship, was sunk on May 17.

DEFENCE TALKS ARRANGED. City College Society Will Hear Both Sides of Question.

As a result of the recent agitation against the introduction of military training in the College of the City of New York a society was organized by some of the students, who aim, according to an announcement, "to study the question of preparedness from all points of view."

As the first of a series of speakers to address the organization, Carl Becker, director of the Labor Forum and of the American Association for Labor Legislation, will speak next Friday at the City College.

POPE TOLD OF FAMINE. Austrian Emperor Expected to Make Plan to Pontiff.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. ROME, May 19.—The Vatican has received confidential information that the shortage of food in the Central Empires is verging on famine, especially in Austria, where conditions are described as worse than in Germany. It is expected that Emperor Francis Joseph will protest to the Pope against the "inhuman attempt of the Allies to starve non-combatants."

The correspondent of *The Sun* is informed from diplomatic sources that in case such a protest is made the Pope is not likely to take any action beyond suggesting peace as a remedy for existing conditions.

BERLIN REALTY DEPRESSED. Number of Empty Stores and Dwellings Increasing.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. BERLIN, May 19.—The *Reich-Anzeiger*, referring to the recent official census of empty flats and shops in Berlin, remarks that the position is gloomy.

"Flats are everywhere visible proclaiming that the premises are vacant," says the paper, "and the great number of empty shops is inducing to grave conclusions concerning the business life of the metropolis and showing that not only the landlords are suffering, but that difficulties prevail in our economic life."

"The flat conditions are becoming more and more miserable every month. The tenants are evacuating larger and larger flats. Occupants of five room flats are compelled to be content with two, without such conveniences as hot water and steam heating. Consequently there is a shortage of two room flats, while a great many five room flats are empty."

VON DER GOLTZ RUMORS GROW.

Body Not Buried for Nearly Month After Death.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. MOSCOW, May 19.—Announcement is made in Constantinople that the body of Field Marshal von der Goltz was buried at Bagdad on May 12. Previous official German announcements of the Field Marshal's death were that he died at Bagdad on April 19. The delay in the burial is explained as due to the necessity of taking the body to Constantinople for embalming.

This announcement is regarded here as strengthening the reports current at the time of Field Marshal von der Goltz's death that he had not died of spotted fever, as was announced, but that he was murdered in Constantinople. The explanation given for the delay in the burial is considered an obviously unconvincing one, being argued that it would be practically impossible to transport the body the thousand miles from Bagdad to Constantinople, the first part of which was by caravan, without embalming.

The opinion is freely expressed here, therefore, that the announcement was taken as a tacit admission that the Field Marshal was in Constantinople at the time of his death.

GERMAN STEAMER SUNK.

British E Boat Sinks Another Vessel in Baltic.

LONDON, May 19.—A Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company announces that a fourth German ship has been sunk in the Baltic by British submarines, which are waging war on German commerce near the Scandinavian coasts.

The name of the vessel is not given, but it is stated she was bound from Lubeck, Germany, to Norway with coal. The entire crew of seventeen men was saved.

All Aboard the Mira Lost.

PARIS, May 19.—Despatches received here state that all the passengers and crew of the French coasting steamer *Mira* were lost when she sank after being torpedoed on May 16 in the Mediterranean.

MEXICANS LOOT RANCHES AGAIN IN THE BIG BEND

Two Bandit Leaders Combine Bands and Have More Than 300 Men—Major Langhorne Bringing His Forces Back to the Border.

EL PASO, May 19.—More raids over the border into Texas and the preparations being made for more trips by the bandits have halted the expedition of American forces into Mexico, south of the "Big Bend" country of Texas.

Placido Villaveja, a Villa bandit reported killed in a fight with troops of Telesforo Dominguez near Ojinaga several weeks ago, has joined forces with Jose Chavez, another bandit leader, and they are stealing horses on both sides of the river. The first theft was made from the ranch of Buck Poole, where they took ten head of horses, near Presidio, Tex.

News reached here to-day that they also raided the ranch of Felipe Valdez, sixty miles from Presidio, taking a number of horses and supplies. It is generally thought they are getting new mounts for the purpose of committing raids into Texas towns.

This same band came from the vicinity of El Paso and it is said some of the members were in the band which raided Glenn Springs. The total force is from 300 to 500 men.

These new raids have put the Mexican bandits who raided Glenn Springs two weeks ago to-night to be given up and the American Government has agreed to pay a reward of \$10,000 for the capture of the band.

In addition to the cavalry now pursuing the bandits, the Texas Rangers are being sent to the border. The Texas Rangers are being sent to the border. The Texas Rangers are being sent to the border.

The Sixth Cavalry came out of Mexico to-day, arriving at Columbus and going into camp there. As soon as they rest up from their march they will be sent to Marquette for distribution in the "Big Bend."

It is stated that Gen. Pershing needs more men with him in Mexico. The regiment of the New Mexican National Guard, now mobilized and recruiting to full strength at Columbus, will be sent in. This regiment is now being mustered into the service of the Federal Government. H. T. Herring, the Adjutant-General of New Mexico, commanding the brigade, is a West Point officer.

It became known to-day that the American forces in Mexico south of the Big Bend country have been ordered to leave and started on their way back to Texas. They penetrated over 130 miles into Mexico and encountered but one force of bandits and these escaped after a short fight.

The fact that additional cavalry is not available to extend the line of communication and that motor trucks not available in such quantities as to keep supplies going to the troops are considered responsible for the abandonment of the expedition.

Reports from Chihuahua, where Carranza soldiers are taking over the task of hunting bandits, it is asserted that Carranza soldiers in large numbers are leaving the state and going to the Big Bend. Also that a considerable force of Mexicans whose political affiliations are unknown are operating in that section and the stay of the Americans might result in a serious clash.

A Bandit Free Lance.

Rosalio Hernandez, with 300 armed followers, is at Rancho de Encarnillas, 160 miles south of El Paso, south of the border and forty miles south of where the American expedition camped Thursday. According to reports, Hernandez has had no success in his command in the immediate vicinity of where he has his headquarters.

Hernandez, it is alleged, is a political free lance and does not subject himself to the followers to the dictum of either Carranza or Villa. It is not known for certain whether or not the Glenn Springs and Boquillas raiders were acting under his orders, but it is said he made no efforts to apprehend them upon their retreat.

Investigation by American officers to-day of the killing of Harry Furman, machine gun company, Twenty-third Infantry, on a small piece of Mexican territory on the American side of the Rio Grande yesterday, showed that the soldier was not drunk, as reported by the Mexican officials, but that he apparently wandered over the line without knowing it.

The Mexican officials have placed two men under arrest and claim that one pleads guilty to having killed the American. He states, however, that the American was shot by a bandit named Carlos Calles, Governor of Sonora, has made official request of the United States for the release of ammunition being held in Douglas by the American soldiers. He states that his men cannot suppress the Yaqui Indians in Sonora nor the Villa bandits unless they can secure ammunition.

Unverified reports were received here to-day that Pancho Villa, well and hearty, is operating near Durango, at the head of 200 men, going under the name of Col. Augustin Garcia, on the border, and that he is planning to return to the United States during the days before his military life.

COL. SIBLEY COMING OUT.

Notifies Gen. Funston—Shortage of Water and Forage.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., May 19.—Gen. Funston received a message from Col. Sibley at 11 o'clock to-night saying the expedition which had been in pursuit of the Carranza bandits was ready to start out of Mexico as soon as he could collect the scattered detachments of Troop A, Eighth Cavalry, which, with Troop B, in command of Major Langhorne, were in the mountains near Madera, Boquillas to Sierra Blanca. These detachments of troops are fifteen miles in advance of the main body.

Gen. Funston's expedition had accomplished its purpose, having scouted all around that country after rescuing Deemers and his companion, Monroe Hayden, because of the shortage of water and forage it was deemed advisable to return to American soil.

Further details of the skirmish a few days ago, when the Carranza bandits, which says four Mexicans were wounded and two made prisoners. One of the wounded was a son of the Carranza commandant who was killed, whose name is not given in the message.

KILL 16 BANDITS.

Cowboys Surprise Band; Take Many Prisoners.

FIELD HEADQUARTERS, NAMIQUITA, Mexico, May 18, via Wireless to Columbus, N. M., May 19.—Twenty-five cowboys from the Heart ranch surprised a band of Carranza bandits, killing sixteen and capturing many more.

The bandits were under the command of Alejandro Dominguez and Pedro Castillo. The cowboys (vaqueros) were led by Guadalupe Quesada.

This band had been raiding Heart's ranch, Namiquita, for three days. The cowboys followed them, finally over-

BANKERS ENLISTED FOR HOME DEFENCE

Two Hundred Erom Below the "Dead Line" Join League to Aid Police.

Recruits from below the old Fulton street "dead line" for the Home Defence League, an organization of citizens pledged to help the police force in times of great emergency, were promised yesterday at a meeting of 200 business men at the Bankers Club, in the Equitable Building. Mayor Mitchell, Alderman Curran, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Police Inspector Dillon told what the league purposed doing, and when they finished the 200 were quite ready to respond to Chairman George T. Wilson's call for "Three cheers for America, made in America."

Among those present were Jacob H. Schiff, Henry P. Davidson, Major-Gen. Daniel Appleton, Otto T. Bannard, A. Barton Hepburn and Darwin P. Kingsley.

In introducing the Mayor Mr. Wilson said that New Yorkers were not sufficiently interested in municipal affairs, and that Mr. Mitchell "is one of the best Mayors we ever have had." [Applause.]

The Mayor said the Home Defence League was devised by Commissioner Woods, and "like most things he has done it commended itself to me as a good plan."

"It is an opportunity," he went on, "for a real contribution right here to the general plan of national defense, because in any agency that calls for the defense of this country we shall need men in terms of hundreds of thousands. One thousand policemen can and do cope with normal conditions, but it is not reasonable to suppose that without supplementing forces they could deal effectively in time of great national or local crisis with all the forces of disorder."

"You may register if you wish in this Home Defence League, and give this service just as long as you want to give it. It is a voluntary service, terminable at the pleasure of the man who registers. The long and the short of it is the

creation of a citizen reserve force, moderately trained and instructed, so that it could take its place on the streets in case of real necessity."

"There may have been a time in this city when you would hesitate to associate yourselves even in this indirect fashion with the police of New York. But I think I am not mistaking the sentiment of the community when I say that to-day the police force has been restored to public confidence and public respect." [Applause.] It is asking the respectable citizens nothing more than to do themselves a certain amount of honor and render a certain amount of public service."

Alderman Curran said the league hoped to get 30,000 members. "Find out where your precinct station house is, take your name signed, and that will be your first lesson in citizenship," he added.

There are 15,842 men in the league now, Inspector Dillon said, and by July 1 there probably will be 40,000. "Find out where your precinct station house is, take your name signed, and that will be your first lesson in citizenship," he added.

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